

# **HOT** **TOPICS**

February 2006

Volume 8, No. 1

CURRENT ISSUES FOR ARMY LEADERS

## **Choose Your Goal**

**Let Army Education Help You Reach It**

**Lifetime of Learning  
*In the Classroom or Online*  
Scholarship Opportunities**

THE world we are living in and the Army we serve is changing at a very rapid pace. Education is a powerful enabler allowing the Army to maintain its position as the predominant Army in the world. It prepares Soldiers for the future, allows them to better deal with today's challenges, and provides them with skills to maintain a competitive edge.

The Army Continuing Education System ensures lifelong learning opportunities are available and affordable to Soldiers around the world. ACES counselors are trained to help Soldiers establish a plan to attain their education goals, using a wide variety of resources.

As the Army transforms and more services become Web-enabled, ACES will make it easier for Soldiers to continue their educations through implementation of more virtualized education operations to benefit and support Soldiers around the globe.

Beyond enhancing mission readiness, education can improve Soldiers' chances for promotion and their marketability for civilian jobs after retirement. An education is something Soldiers carry with them, regardless of where they go. Knowledge is a powerful asset that improves critical thinking and decision-making skills. It enhances awareness of the world.

One of the most important virtues a leader can pass on to Soldiers is an appreciation for knowledge. I hope this issue of Hot Topics will encourage leaders and their Soldiers to continue learning. ACES professionals stand ready to assist.

BG E. Eric Porter  
The Adjutant General of the Army



**Hot Topics — Current Issues for Army Leaders** is a U.S. Army publication produced by the Office of the Chief of Public Affairs. Our purpose is to guide and inform Army leaders and trainers in discussing current or controversial topics. A contract printer distributes **Hot Topics** as an insert to **Soldiers magazine**. **Hot Topics** is in the public domain (except for "by permission" and copyright items) and may be reproduced locally without obtaining further permission.

Your comments are welcome. Help us decide which topics to consider. Write to: **Hot Topics**, c/o **Soldiers magazine**, 9325 Gunston Rd., Ste. S-108, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5581. Phone (DSN) 656-4503 or (703) 806-4503. Send e-mail to [soldiers@belvoir.army.mil](mailto:soldiers@belvoir.army.mil). You can obtain **Hot Topics** on the Internet at [www.soldiersmagazine.com](http://www.soldiersmagazine.com) (click on **Hot Topics** under the **Soldiers** magazine icon.)

## Credits

|                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Secretary of the Army          | Dr. FRANCIS J. HARVEY   |
| Army Chief of Staff            | GEN PETER J. SCHOOMAKER   |
| Chief of Public Affairs        | BG VINCENT K. BROOKS  |
| Chief, Command Information     | LTC JOSEPH M. YOSWA   |
| Editor in Chief                | GIL HIGH  |
| Special Products Editor        | DON WAGNER  |
| Creative Design and Production | IMAGE MEDIA SERVICES, INC.,<br>McLean, Va.  |
| Printing and Distribution      | GATEWAY PRESS INC.,<br>Louisville, Ky.  |
| Special thanks to:             | Christine Queen<br>Rene Jenkins<br>L. Dian Stoskopf<br>Army Continuing Education System<br>Human Resources Command<br><br>Norwich University Public Relations<br><br><b>Soldiers</b> PRODUCTION STAFF |



THIS issue of Hot Topics gives Soldiers a snapshot look at the educational opportunities available to them.

Soldiers who walk through their local education offices are the Army's leaders of tomorrow. They have the ability to adapt quickly to the hostile, changing environment of the battlefield. A thinking mind finds the answers.

*"The Army remains committed to the education of our leaders even during this period of war. In fact, we are more aggressively pursuing leaders' education now than during any other period of conflict in our history. We are educating our leaders to expand their minds, increase their cultural awareness and to promote a "lifetime of learning."*

(Posture Statement 2005 U.S. Army)



# Continuing Education... What's in It for You?

EARNING a degree? Why bother? Earning a degree takes time and money. Soldiers and veterans can save both with an official transcript from the Army/American Council on Education Registry Transcript System, or AARTS.

AARTS transcripts translate military education and job experience into civilian language by listing college-equivalent credit recommendations that assist colleges and universities in credentialing Soldiers' experience and knowledge. AARTS transcripts are free and available to qualifying Soldiers and veterans of the regular Army, Army National Guard, and Army Reserve. Qualifications are detailed online at <http://aarts.army.mil>.

Requests are processed and mailed when they are received by the next work day to academic institutions, Soldiers, education counselors and employers around the world.

Soldiers and veterans may view and print their transcripts from our Web site at <https://aartstranscript.army.mil/>. Online ordering of transcripts for over 750 colleges is available at <https://aartstranscript.army.mil/>. The transcript request form is available online at <http://aarts.army.mil/Order.htm>. Requests may be faxed to (913) 648-2011

or (DSN) 552-2011, or mailed to: AARTS Operations Center, 415 McPherson Ave., Fort Leavenworth, KS 66027-1373.

E-mail requests for personal AARTS transcript copies are also accepted at [aarts@leavenworth.army.mil](mailto:aarts@leavenworth.army.mil). For those not using the order form, the Web site provides necessary information needed to request a transcript.

After checking the AARTS Web site and reviewing their transcripts, Soldiers who have questions may call the AARTS Operations Center at (913) 684-3269, (DSN) 552-3269 or toll free (866) 297-4427.

Education is an American value. Education is an integral part of the Army culture. It sharpens Soldiers' competitive edge and hones critical-thinking skills.

- Lifelong learning is for everyone.
- Education enhances quality of life and mission readiness.
- Education programs and services are customer-driven.
- Career professionals are vital to the Army mission.
- Professional development is non-negotiable in today's workforce.

**Our Army at War — Relevant and Ready-Today and Tomorrow  
Educated Soldier Today, Military Leader Tomorrow**





# What Does ACES Do for You?

THE Army is operating in a high-tech, fast-flowing environment and needs Soldiers to be multi-skilled.

The Army Continuing Education System delivers a full range of learning programs that help Soldiers meet educational and professional goals. Whether Soldiers seek college degrees, technical training, or just want to brush up on math or English skills, ACES has 113 Army education centers, supported by 139 multi-use learning facilities and a staff of professional educators, to get them started. Programs and services include:

- Academic and vocational counseling,
- Basic Skills Program (called Functional Academic Skills Training, or FAST),
- High school completion,
- English as a Second Language, or ESL,
- Postsecondary programs,
- Tuition assistance, testing,
- AARTS,
- Leader skills enhancement courses, GI to Jobs,
- Service Members Opportunity Colleges Army Degrees, or SOCAD
- eArmyU.

## THE Army's Continuing Education System

THE Army Continuing Education System promotes lifelong learning opportunities with the goal of sharpening the Army's competitive edge. The ACES provides quality self-development programs and services from 113 Army education centers around the globe.

Several resources are available to support you:

- Army Continuing Education System or ACES counselors. ACES counselors assist Soldiers in identifying education goals, provide counseling on tuition assistance and Army education policies and procedures, and initiate eArmyU enrollment.
- Program mentors. Soldiers who are enrolled in eArmyU are supported by a program mentor who works with with ACES counselors who provide academic advice and support. Mentors assist with administrative issues, and encourage students to use Web-based support services that help Soldiers accomplish their educational goals.
- Campus contacts. Campus points of contact provide information relating to aspects of student enrollment at particular colleges or universities, such as: degree programs, admissions requirements, course policies and access, or course instructors.

# GI to Jobs: A COOL Deal for Soldiers



THE GI to Jobs initiative helps Soldiers identify and earn civilian credentials that will benefit them in their military careers and when they seek civilian employment. Certificates or licenses provide Soldiers with professional-development opportunities and are valuable to have when making that step into America's job force.

Some 94 percent of the Army's Military Occupational Specialties, or MOS's match civilian jobs that are subject to licensure or certification, and 93 percent of enlisted Soldiers serve in these MOSs.

In 2002 the Army Continuing Education System launched its GI to Jobs Web site, called "Credentialing Opportunities On-Line," at [www.cool.army.mil](http://www.cool.army.mil). Known as COOL, the site contains extensive information on civilian credentialing and explains how enlisted Soldiers can meet civilian credentialing requirements related to their MOSs. A "credential" can be a license or a certification:

- Licenses are granted by federal, state or local governmental agencies. Licenses are typically

mandatory, as state and federal laws or regulations define the occupational standards.

- Certifications are usually granted by nongovernmental agencies, associations and private-sector companies and are often optional. Certification standards may be set by professional associations or by industry.

Since many civilian professions require credentials, Soldiers need to understand the role credentialing plays in their fields. COOL can help. Soldiers should use COOL to:

- Get background information about civilian licensure and certification,
- Search by Army MOS to identify relevant licenses and certifications,
- Learn how to fill gaps between Army training and experience and civilian credentialing requirements,
- Learn about resources that can help Soldiers gain civilian job credentials.





## GI to Jobs: A COOL Deal for Soldiers

NEW users of the COOL Web site can review the COOL “Overview and Credentialing Basics” to understand how to get the most out of COOL and learn about civilian credentialing. The “Costs and Resources” page outlines potential credentialing costs and the resources available to Soldiers to help defray costs. Or, users can go directly to the “Credential Search” page.

After searching for an MOS using the Credential Search page, Soldiers are presented with information, including the names of civilian jobs that are similar to the selected MOS, along with links to the **Occupational Outlook Handbook’s** job descriptions. Requirements for national certification and state licensure follow. Next to each listing is a rating icon that reveals the estimated ability of a first-term Soldier to obtain that particular credential. By clicking on each credential, viewers can see the gaps between Army training and experience and civilian certification requirements.

Credentialing boards may require different types of documentation. Some credentialing boards are familiar with military documentation and have explicit requirements for military documentation of education, training and experience. If the credentialing board is not familiar with or has questions related to your military training or experience inform them about the types of documentation that you have or can obtain. They may be more willing to consider your training and experience if they are aware of these official documents.

The Army provides three types of education, training and experience documentation — a military transcript and two official military forms:

- Army American Council of Education Registry Transcript System, or AARTS,
- Verification of Military Experience and Training (DD Form 2586),
- Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214).





IN 2001 the Army launched eArmyU, a computer-based program designed to offer eligible enlisted Soldiers the opportunity to work toward a college degree or certificate. eArmyU is available Army-wide, regardless of duty station.

Two eArmyU enrollment options are available to all regular Army active-duty enlisted Soldiers, Active Guard Reserve Soldiers, mobilized Reservists, and officers who have computer access. They are, eCourses enrollment or course-by-course enrollment.

The eArmyU technology package (laptop) enrollment is available to most regular Army active-duty enlisted Soldiers in the ranks of E-3 to E-9 who meet specific eligibility criteria and the three-year-service-remaining requirement. Both eCourse and laptop program enrollees receive several tools to support their success as online students, including 100 percent tuition, up to the established semester-hour cap and annual tuition ceiling. eArmyU tuition includes textbooks, an Internet service provider account, eArmyU "Boot Camp" tutorial, and 24/7 helpdesk and technology support.

Laptop program enrollees receive a laptop computer that the Soldier keeps after completing 12 semester hours of eArmyU coursework. eArmyU.com, the program's distance-learning portal, allows enrolled Soldiers to access more than 147 postsecondary certificates, associate's, bachelor's and master's degree programs from 29 regionally accredited college and university partners.

Soldiers can transfer education credits among member institutions, because only Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges Army Degree, or SOCAD member schools offer undergraduate programs as part of eArmyU.

Institutions offering graduate and/or certificate programs must agree in writing to the Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges, or SOC institutional principles and criteria. If you are ready to get started on your education, contact an ACES counselor or visit [www.eArmyU.com](http://www.eArmyU.com) to assess your enrollment eligibility. Contact an ACES counselor or visit [www.eArmyU.com](http://www.eArmyU.com) to assess your enrollment eligibility.

- ❖ **Unique:** eArmyU provides up to 100 percent funding for tuition, books, course fees, e-mail and Internet access. Eligible Soldiers also may receive personal laptop computers or enroll in the eCourse option.
- ❖ **Flexible:** e-learning programs, guaranteed course and credit transferability and Internet access enable Soldiers to stay on track and earn their degrees anytime, anywhere.
- ❖ **Committed:** 24/7 helpdesk support and program mentors are available to help every Soldier succeed in earning his degree.
- ❖ **Efficient:** eArmyU enables Soldiers to take courses from 29 regionally-accredited colleges and universities through one integrated online program, which eliminates the need for time-consuming paper forms.

Join the more than 55,000 Soldiers enrolled in eArmyU. Visit us today at [www.eArmyU.com](http://www.eArmyU.com) to find out how.



# Soldiers Considering Pursuing Credentials Should Ask:

- ❑ HOW can credentials enhance my professional growth or promotion opportunities while in the Army?
- ❑ What are my prospects for obtaining civilian employment without credentials?
- ❑ What are the delays in obtaining civilian employment if I try to obtain credentials after leaving the service.
- ❑ What will I have to do to obtain credentials while I'm in the military, and will I be able to fulfill the requirements while carrying out my military duties?
- ❑ What costs are associated with obtaining the credential, and will the military or Department of Veterans' Affairs subsidize the costs?
- ❑ Will I need to renew my license or certification during military service and, if so, what is required?

Soldiers competing for promotion to sergeant and staff sergeant can receive promotion points for civilian technical certifications. See COOL for details at [www.cool.army.mil](http://www.cool.army.mil).

## Army Career Degree Program

THE Service Members Opportunity Colleges Army Degree and the Army Career Degree Program translates Army training into college credit related to Soldiers' occupational specialties.

The degree map format indicates what college courses are needed for a degree and what options are available to students to fulfill requirements. The degree map shows which college credits will be awarded by home colleges for completion of MOS-related training and work experience.

More than 20 SOCAD ACDP colleges provide classroom or distance-learning, plus testing, certification and licensure options for degree requirements. Army Career Degrees are earned through civilian colleges and universities.

The ACDP and the degree plans are usually introduced to Soldiers at the end of their Advanced Individual Training, Primary Leadership Development Course, Basic Noncommissioned Officers Course or Warrant Officer Basic Course. Active-duty, Army National Guard and Reserve Soldiers can use the ACDP and obtain degrees during enlistments. Distance learning makes the ACDP a career-related degree for Soldiers stationed around the world.

Degree requirements can be found at the SOCAD Web site at [www.soc.aascu.org/scocad/ACD.html](http://www.soc.aascu.org/scocad/ACD.html). The SOCAD Army Career Degree Program booklet can be found at [www.soc.aascu.org/socad/SOCADPublicity.htm#ACDPbooklet](http://www.soc.aascu.org/socad/SOCADPublicity.htm#ACDPbooklet).



# The Cost

EARNING a degree or certificate can be expensive. The Army provides programs to help Soldiers make the payments. They include:

**Tuition Assistance Program.** Department of Defense tuition assistance policy allows Soldiers to receive 100 percent TA, or up to \$250 per semester hour, whichever is less. The annual ceiling is \$4,500.

TA is authorized for all Soldiers and may be used in support of Soldiers' professional and personal self-development goals. Soldiers may request TA to pay for courses offered in classrooms, online, by correspondence, and by other nontraditional means.

To receive TA, Soldiers must identify an educational goal (i.e., a specific degree). Education center counselors are available to assist in helping Soldiers set educational goals. TA may be authorized on a course-by-course basis for courses that apply to the Soldier's goal. Soldiers sign a statement of understanding before receiving TA to verify that the Soldier understands the benefits and obligations of using TA.

TA must be requested in sufficient time for approval and processing before registration in the course. Procedures vary by service component. Soldiers should contact their servicing Education Center well ahead of time for information. For contact information visit: [www.aces.army.mil/aces/ACESsitesALL.asp](http://www.aces.army.mil/aces/ACESsitesALL.asp).

Starting April 1, 2006, active-duty Soldiers will be able to request Tuition Assistance online at [www.GoArmyEd.com](http://www.GoArmyEd.com).

**Testing.** Many educational tests are available to Soldiers through the testing section at their installation Education Center.

Many tests-for-credit, such as the College Level Examination Program (CLEP), are available. Ask at your local Education Center for a list. These tests are free and available to Soldiers. Most colleges accept CLEP, but you should check on your college's policies regarding this. For Soldiers who have acquired college-level knowledge in a subject through reading, hobbies, or life experiences, this could be the path to building up promotion points and college credit quickly.

College entrance exams, the SAT and ACT, are available for Soldiers. Check with your college first, as some colleges do not require them at all, many colleges are specific about which of these they will accept, and Soldiers may only take one of these exams at no cost.

# of Knowledge



EDUCATION centers do not administer the Graduate Management Admission Test or GMAT and Graduate Record Examination or GRE general graduate entrance exams. However, funding on a reimbursable basis is available for these, subject to certain restrictions. Before scheduling the exam, Soldiers should contact their local education centers for full information regarding the funding process and restrictions.

Certification examinations in many professional fields can be administered at your local education center. Most of these examinations require extensive job experience and Soldiers must pay for most of these examinations. If you're looking for a specific industry-recognized certification examination, ask personnel at your education center if it's on the list of tests they can order.

In addition to educational tests, many education centers also administer Army personnel tests.

**Montgomery GI Bill.** The Montgomery GI Bill is available to active-duty and reserve-component service members who meet the eligibility criteria outlined in Title 38, U.S. Code, Chapter 30. The law requires the active-duty Soldier's pay to be reduced \$100 a month for 12 months. This money is nonrefundable. Once eligible, Soldiers may receive up to 36 months in education benefits. The benefit may be used for:

- College courses, technical/business/vocational schools;
- Residence/correspondence courses;
- Apprenticeship and on-the-job training;
- Work-study programs, cooperative programs;
- Flight training

## **Eligible active-duty Soldiers must have:**

- Entered active duty for the first time on or after July 1, 1985;
- Served 24 months on a two-year enlistment and 36 months on a three-year or greater enlistment, or 24 months of continuous active duty, with no service break, as per U.S. Code Title 10;
- Received a high school diploma or equivalency before applying for MGIB benefits;
- Received a fully honorable discharge; and
- Never declined MGIB.





## The Cost of Knowledge

**Montgomery GI Bill.** MGIB benefit rates can be found at [www.gibill.va.gov/education/rates.htm](http://www.gibill.va.gov/education/rates.htm). First-time users of MGIB benefits must fill out Department of Veterans Affairs Form 22-1990, “Application for Education Benefits,” available at [www.va.gov/vaforms.htm](http://www.va.gov/vaforms.htm). For more information on MGIB, call toll free (888) 442-4551 or visit [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov).


The MGIB-Selected Reserve Program is available to Army National Guard and Reserve members. Current MGIB benefit rates can be found at [www.gibill.va.gov/education/rates.htm](http://www.gibill.va.gov/education/rates.htm). First-time users of MGIB benefits must fill out Department of Veterans Affairs Form 22-1990, “Application for Education Benefits,” available at [www.va.gov/vaforms.htm](http://www.va.gov/vaforms.htm). For more information about the MGIB, call Toll Free (888) 442-4551 or at [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov).

**Army College Fund.** The Army College Fund is an initial-enlistment incentive offered to applicants who meet certain criteria and enlist for a critical or shortage Military occupational specialty. It supplements the Montgomery GI Bill and must be included in a Soldier’s initial-enlistment contract. When combined, the ACF and MGIB can award a Soldier as much as \$50,000 in veterans education benefits.

**Tuition Assistance Top-Up.** The Montgomery GI Bill Active Duty Program was amended in October 2000 to permit what’s called a Tuition Assistance Top-Up benefit. This allows active-duty Soldiers to use MGIB benefits to pay the portion of tuition not covered by TA. To be eligible for the Top-Up benefit, the Soldier must be eligible for TA and MGIB active-duty funds. The amount of the benefit is limited to the amount the person would receive for the same course if regular MGIB benefits were being paid. In no case can the amount paid by the Department of Veterans Affairs be more than the total cost of the course.

Soldiers intending to take expensive courses using the Top-Up option should consider whether they plan to take additional training after leaving the service, since they’re likely to need MGIB benefits then, too. To apply for Top-Up, Soldiers must:

- ❶ Request TA through an education counselor.
- ❷ Complete an application for VA education benefits, VA Form 22-1990, at [www.va.gov/vaforms/](http://www.va.gov/vaforms/). Annotate “Top-Up” in item 1A under “MGIB Active Duty” block and on top of the form.
- ❸ Send the TA approval form, with signatures of approving officials listed, and application for VA education benefits to the VA regional processing office at the address indicated on the form.



IF Army TA pays for 100 percent of tuition, Soldiers will not need to use TA Top-Up. When the per-semester hour tuition cost is above \$250, Soldiers may use Top-Up.

**Licensing and Certification Benefit.** The Department of Veterans Affairs will award up to \$2,000 for licensing and certification tests that are approved for MGIB benefits. Reimbursements can be granted for tests taken on or after March 1, 2001. Soldiers may receive this benefit if they are eligible for the MGIB Active Duty, Veterans Education Assistance Program or Dependents Educational Assistance. For more information and application guidelines, go to [www.gibill.va.gov/](http://www.gibill.va.gov/).

**GI Bill—Vietnam Era.** The Vietnam Era GI Bill, also known as Chapter 34, is authorized under Title 38, United States Code. Chapter 34 was offered Jan. 31, 1955, through Dec. 31, 1976. Chapter 34 benefits expired on Dec. 31, 1989. However, Public Law 98-525 may authorize some individuals to qualify for conversion to the current MGIB. For more information, see an education counselor or visit [www.armyeducation.army.mil/GIB\\_Vietnam.html](http://www.armyeducation.army.mil/GIB_Vietnam.html).

**VEAP.** The Veterans Education Assistance Program was offered Jan. 1, 1977, through June 30, 1985. The program matched service members' contributions, which could not exceed \$2,700 on a \$2 to \$1 basis. The maximum benefit available is \$8,100. First-time users of VEAP benefits must submit Department of Veterans Affairs Form 22-1990, "Application for Education Benefits", available at [www.va.gov/vaforms.htm](http://www.va.gov/vaforms.htm). For more information about the VEAP, call toll free (888) 442-4551 or visit [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov).

**Loan Repayment Program.** The Loan Repayment Program is a special enlistment incentive the Army offers to qualified applicants at the time of enlistment. Under the LRP, the Army will repay up to \$65,000 toward the remaining original unpaid principal of a Soldier's qualifying student loans. The LRP must be guaranteed in the Soldier's enlistment contract on DA Form 3286-66. For more information about the LRP, visit [www.armyeducation.army.mil/lrp.html](http://www.armyeducation.army.mil/lrp.html).



# Army Education Relief Scholarships for Family Members

THE MG James Ursano Scholarship Fund is administered by Army Emergency Relief to help Army families with the costs of postsecondary, undergraduate-level education, vocational training and preparation for acceptance by service academies for their dependent children. Applications are available at [www.aerhq.org/education\\_dependentchildren.asp](http://www.aerhq.org/education_dependentchildren.asp) from November through March for the upcoming academic year. For more information, visit the Web site or call (703) 428-0035.

## Spouse Educational Assistance

The Spouse Educational Assistance, or AER, also offers the program for Army spouses residing with active-duty Soldiers stationed in Europe, Korea, Japan or Okinawa to provide spouses with financial assistance for education that will allow them to qualify for increased occupational opportunities. More information and application forms are available at [www.aerhq.org/education.asp](http://www.aerhq.org/education.asp).



## RESOURCES



- ❶ **Army Continuing Education Services.** The ACES vision is to revolutionize and lead Department of Defense education and spearhead a lifelong learning culture to strengthen a mission-ready force. The ACES Web site is at [www.ArmyEducation.Army.Mil](http://www.ArmyEducation.Army.Mil).
- ❷ **Army Knowledge Online.** Personalize your AKO account to access Army Education information at [www.us.army.mil](http://www.us.army.mil).
- ❸ **Department of Veterans Affairs, Education Services.** Provides information about veteran benefits and services. [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov) outlines education programs and offers links to education forms.
- ❹ **Army Emergency Relief.** The Army Emergency Relief offers scholarship programs for spouses and dependent children. [www.aerhq.org/education.asp](http://www.aerhq.org/education.asp).
- ❺ **Army/American Council on Education Registry Transcript System.** The Army/American Council on Education Registry Transcript System translates military education and job experience into college credit. Forms and information are available at [www.aartstranscript.leavenworth.army.mil](http://www.aartstranscript.leavenworth.army.mil).
- ❻ **Scholarships programs by other organizations.** [www.armyeducation.army.mil/scholarship.html](http://www.armyeducation.army.mil/scholarship.html).
- ❼ **The Army's ROTC Scholarship Programs** provide financial assistance for the education and training of highly qualified and motivated young men and women who desire to be commissioned as officers in the Army after graduation from college. [www-rotc.monroe.army.mil](http://www-rotc.monroe.army.mil).
- ❽ **The U.S. Military Academy at West Point** also offers a challenging academic program for highly-qualified and motivated men and women who desire to be commissioned officers. [www.usma.edu](http://www.usma.edu).
- ❾ **The online version of the book "Distance Degrees"** by Mark Wilson, includes a review of rankings of colleges and universities offering distance degrees. [www.distancedegrees.com/online](http://www.distancedegrees.com/online).
- ❿ **Fisher House**, a private-public partnership that supports America's Soldiers and families in their time of need. Fisher House administers and sponsors scholarships for military children. [www.fisherhouse.org](http://www.fisherhouse.org).
- ⓫ **The Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association.** The AFCEA Educational Foundation provides annual scholarships, fellowships and awards to students attending the service academies, ROTC programs graduate schools and other educational institutions, and are studying the "hard" sciences. [www.afcea.org](http://www.afcea.org).



# The Value of Life-long Learning

*“A balance of training and education is required to prepare Soldiers to perform their duties. Training prepares Soldiers and leaders to operate in relatively certain conditions, focusing on “what to do.” Education prepares Soldiers and leaders to operate in uncertain conditions, focusing more on “how to think.”*

(Posture statement 2005, U.S. Army)

EDUCATION provides Soldiers critical thinking skills to operate within uncertain and unpredictable environments.

- Education enhances professional and personal development.
- Education improves decision-making and critical-thinking skills.
- Education prepares the Army’s future leaders for challenges ahead.
- Education keeps Soldiers in touch with ever-changing technologies.
- Education is a benefit no one can take away.

**BOTTOM LINE** An Army of One, Education for All.